

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CPRS, CPAS, IT, CS

SUBJECT: EXTRADITION: ROBERT L. VESCO

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 641; (B) SAN JOSE 195

1. UPON RECEIPT REF B, DEPT. LEGAL OFFICER ORALLY CONTACTED ITALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER RE VESCO CITIZENSHIP, AND FOLLOWED UP CONVERSATION WITH LETTER. EMBASSY OFFICER AGREED TO LOOK INTO MATTER, AND CALLED DEPT. OFF. LAST WEEK TO REPORT THAT (L) ITALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM ITALIAN AMBASSADOR SAN JOSE ABOUT MATTER; (2) HE HAD QUERIED ROME ON SUBJECT AND HAD NOT YET RECEIVED REPLY AND (3) HE HAD LOCATED FILE AT EMBASSY BEARING ON MATTER. FILE SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT SOMETIME IN 1972 OR 1973 VESCO AND HIS FATHER APPEARED AT ITALIAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN NEW ORLEANS REQUESTING THAT A STATEMENT BE NOTARIZED OR AUTHENTICATED BY C.G. TO EFFECT THAT VESCO'S U.S.-BORN FATHER HAD NEVER RENOUNCED ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP. VESCO TOOK THIS DOCUMENT TO ROME AND USED IT AS BASIS FOR OBTAINING ITALIAN PASSPORT.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER REPORTED THAT AT SOME UNSPECIFIED DATE
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ITALIAN OFFICIALS HAD TRIED TO OBTAIN A COPY OF VESCO'S

BIRTH CERTIFICATE FROM OFFICIALS IN DETROIT TO DETERMINE

CITIZENSHIP OF VESCO'S FATHER. THIS WAS APPARENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH SOME OTHER ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN AN ITALIAN PASSPORT. DETROIT OFFICIALS REFUSED, HOWEVER, TO GIVE THE ITALIANS A COPY OF THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

3. VESCO'S FATHER'S CITIZENSHIP AT TIME OF VESCO'S BIRTH IS APPARENTLY A KEY FACTOR IN VESCO'S CLAIM, I.E. IF HE WAS ITALIAN CITIZEN AT TIME OF VESCO'S BIRTH VESCO COULD HAVE A TECHNICAL BUT PROBABLY VALID BASIS FOR HIS CLAIM TO ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP. DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IN TRYING TO OBTAIN BIRTH CERTIFICATE FOR ITALIANS. WE ARE ALSO ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE THROUGH JUSTICE IF AND WHEN VESCO'S IMMIGRANT GRANDFATHER WAS EVER NATURALIZED.

4. FYI: DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN TOLD THAT IF ITALIANS CAN DETERMINE IN ANY WAY THAT VESCO'S FATHER HAD NO LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP THEY WILL MOVE TO REVOKE VESCO'S PASSPORT; AND THAT, IN ANY EVENT, IT WILL NOT BE RENEWED. LATTER IS PROBABLY ACADEMIC HOWEVER, AS BY THAT TIME VESCO WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR COSTA RICAN CITIZENSHIP. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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